

oysters, shall have exclusive ownership of and title to all oysters planted by him or existing on the land leased.

“Sec. 18. And be it enacted, That no assignment or transfer of any interest acquired by this Act shall be valid for any purpose if made to a non-resident of this State. If any such assignment is attempted to be made, all interest of the grantor or assignor, shall revert to the State, as if no lease had ever been made.

“Sec. 19. And be it enacted, That all questions and disputes arising between any lessees or holders of estates created by this Act touching the ownership, title buoys, boundaries, extent or location of any leased grounds within the area designated by this Act shall be referred to and decided by the Shell Fish Commissioner, who is hereby empowered on petition of any person interested therein, to summon all the parties in interest, as far as such parties may be known to him, to appear before him at a time and place in the summons named, which summons shall be served by such person as said commissioners may direct. The petition shall contain a sworn statement of facts as claimed by the petitioner, to which any interested party may respond by filing a sworn counter-statement of the facts so claimed by him; and after hearing all the parties interested, with their witnesses and counsel, the said commissioners shall make their decision in writing as soon as convenient thereafter, and the same shall be final, unless an appeal shall be taken from such decision within thirty days thereafter to the Circuit Court for the county, the county seat of which is nearest to the land about which said controversy shall be raised. If two county seats are about the same distance from the place of said controversy, the appeal may be taken to the Circuit Court for either of said counties.

“Sec. 20. And be it enacted, That it shall be lawful for any tonger between the 15th day of April and the 15th day of June, in any year, to take oysters from the natural beds or bars of the Chesapeake bay, and provided, however, that such oysters shall not measure less than 2½ inches in shell measurement from